

# Briefing on National Produced Water Work Group



John Baza, Director  
September 19, 2017



The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is a member of several national organizations that address extractive development regulation, one of which is the Ground Water Protection Council



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## ABOUT US

### About the Ground Water Protection Council

The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) is a nonprofit 501(c)6 organization whose members consist of state ground water regulatory agencies which come together within the GWPC organization to mutually work toward the protection of the nation's ground water supplies. The purpose of the GWPC is to promote and ensure the use of best management practices and fair but effective laws regarding comprehensive ground water protection.

***Our mission** is to promote the protection and conservation of ground water resources for all beneficial uses, recognizing ground water as a critical component of the ecosystem. We provide an important forum for stakeholder communication and research in order to improve governments' role in the protection and conservation of groundwater.*

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**GWPC website: [www.gwpc.org](http://www.gwpc.org)**

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## GWPC BOARD

### GWPC Board

The GWPC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of senior state agency managers. Board members are elected by their peers in the states from a pool of voting members identified as state officials charged with the responsibility of the administration of a state's underground injection control program established pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 and to those persons who are charged with administration of a state's ground water program. The Board of Directors includes representatives of state regulatory agencies responsible for ground water protection and underground injection activity. Board members serve a two-year term and may be re-elected.



Director

State Agency

#### GWPC Board

Committees

Resolutions

#### Divisions

#### GWPC Staff

#### State Membership

#### GWPC History



## **RESOLUTION 17-1**

**Creating a National Study Group to Focus on Regulatory, Scientific, and Technological Challenges concerning the Beneficial Use of Produced Water from Oil and Gas Production**

# Chronology of Produced Water Work Group

- April 2017 - GWPC resolution 17-1
- May - Co-chairs of work group named:
  - Shellie Chard, OK Water Quality Division
  - John Baza, UT Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
- June – work group members identified; included multiple state government reps, scientific and academic reps, and petroleum industry reps
- July – first meeting of PWWG at Utah DNR; initial research modules identified
- August – second meeting in OKC; module leaders established and draft module outlines refined; identified initial ground rules for writing styles and glossary of terms; module leaders given instructions to enlist subject matter experts as needed to address their respective topics



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# ***Briefing on Produced Water and Beneficial Use***

**John Veil**

**410-212-0950**

**[john@veilenvironmental.com](mailto:john@veilenvironmental.com)**

**[www.veilenvironmental.com](http://www.veilenvironmental.com)**

**GWPC National Produced Water Beneficial Use Study Group**

**Salt Lake City, UT**

**July 11-12, 2017**



**Veil Environmental, LLC**

# Key Take-Aways

- Utah's produced water volumes are not even in the top ten producing states in the U.S.; however in 2013 Utah ranked 11th in oil production and 10th in natural gas production
- *[The Utah petroleum industry produces about six barrels of water for every barrel of oil; in 2016 this amounted to 159,212,642 barrels (20,523 acre-feet)]*
- Nationally, 84% of the produced water was re-injected for enhanced recovery and disposal
- Reuse of produced water in the oilfield has been the most prevalent means of managing these tremendous volumes
- Opportunities for other methods of reuse focus on current consumptive uses of fresh water

# Key Take-Aways (continued)

- Barriers to more reuse:
  - Economics
  - Data management
  - *Social acceptance*
  - Volume and timing of the demand for end-use
  - Uncertain policy relative to ownership, rights of use, and liability

# Social Acceptance



## Next Steps

- September, 2017 – optional meeting of module leaders and sub-groups as part of GWPC Annual Forum in Boston, MA; initial progress report to GWPC Board; continue to identify and recruit subject matter experts to address topics as needed; commence limited writing of module sections
- February, 2018 – next full meeting of PWWG as part of GWPC UIC meeting in Tulsa, OK; progress reports from module leaders; identify gaps in topical areas; recruit additional section authors as needed; commence full draft writing of module sections
- April, 2018 – second progress report to GWPC Board
- August, 2018 – first full draft submitted for review, modification, and preliminary editing
- September, 2018 – third progress report to GWPC Board; module leaders implement editor corrections; address any further report gaps
- February, 2019 – final draft produced for publication

# QUESTIONS?

